

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the standing rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Executive Calendar No. 86, the nomination of Priscilla R. Owen of Texas to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Senators William Frist, Tom Hatch, Kay Bailey Hutchison, John Cornyn, Mitch McConnell, Jon Kyl, Wayne Allard, Sam Brownback, Jim Talent, Michael Crapo, Gordon Smith, Peter Fitzgerald, Jeff Sessions, Lindsey Graham, Lincoln Chafee, and Saxby Chambliss.

Mr. MCCONNELL. For the information of all Senators, this cloture vote will occur on Thursday of this week. I now ask unanimous consent the live quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, with the dramatic and precipitous fall of many Iraqi cities, including Baghdad, the military conflict in Iraq is all but officially over.

Isolated pockets of resistance still exist and there is the looming threat of suicide bombings, as happened last Friday at an ammunition depot. But we can now proclaim that the barbarous regime of Saddam Hussein and his Ba'ath Party has finally come to an end.

As the military aspect subsides, the number of casualties—United States, coalition, and Iraqi—is also diminishing. And this, clearly, is wonderful news. Still, regrettably, there have been those over the last few weeks who have made the ultimate sacrifice, some of them with close ties to California. I would like to take a moment to honor these brave and selfless individuals.

Marine Cpl Jesus Medellin: On April 7, 21-year-old Jesus "Marty" Medellin was killed when an enemy artillery shell struck his vehicle. The second of four boys from a very close family from Fort Worth, TX, Medellin was remembered as a warm and relaxed family man who was active in local church.

As soon as he graduated from W.E. Boswell High School, in the year 2000, he went straight to Marine boot camp, having decided to do so when only 12 years old. "There's no prouder way of losing someone than through serving their country," said his father, Freddy Medellin, Sr., who was prevented from joining the military because of physical problems.

As part of the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, First Marine Division, based in Camp Pendleton, CA, Cpl Jesus Medellin died doing what he had al-

ways dreamed of doing. Americans everywhere should be as proud of him as his family.

Marine Sgt Duane Rios: Remembered as a gentle giant, as a light-hearted person with an infectious laugh, 6-foot-3-inch Duane Rios was killed in combat on the outskirts of Baghdad, on Friday, April 4. He was a squad leader for the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion of the 1st Marine Division, from Camp Pendleton, CA.

Raised in Indiana by his grandmother, Rios graduated from Griffith High School in 1996. It was there that he met his future bride, Erica, who, upon hearing of her husband's death, told the San Diego Union Tribune that "there's no way he'd leave me behind knowing I couldn't take it. . . . He was a great guy, none better. . . . He did his job with pride because it was something that he felt was right."

She recalled how much they loved the view of the ocean at San Clemente, walking their dog on the beach, and watching the sunset. Her strength, along with her husband's sacrifice, should serve as an inspiration to us all.

Marine 1stSgt Edward C. Smith: A 38-year-old native of Chicago, Sgt Edward Smith had served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 20 years, and had served for 4 years as a reserve officer for the police department of Anaheim, CA. His hope was to retire from the Marines and become a full-time police officer. He died in Qatar, of combat injuries sustained in central Iraq, on April 5.

A veteran of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield, Sergeant Smith received many commendations, including the Navy Commendation Medal and two Navy Achievement Medals.

After graduating from the Palomar Police Academy with the "Top Cop" award, Sergeant Smith went on to receive such honors as the Rookie of the Year for the Anaheim Police Department and the Orange County Reserve Police Officer of the Year in 2001.

His coworkers in Anaheim remember Edward as a gentleman and a professional. He would send them e-mails and makeshift postcards made from empty MRE containers—one which promised that he would wear his SWAP cap into Baghdad.

Sergeant Smith leaves behind his wife Sandy and three young children, Nathan, Ryan, and Shelby. At a news conference held at the Anaheim police department, Ryan, an extraordinarily mature 10-year-old, talked about how their father was always there when they needed help.

"It made me feel so good," the boy said. "He was the best dad you could ever have. I miss him a lot."

Police Sgt. Rick Martinez, one of 100 colleagues who turned out to support the Smith family, noted that "we all fell in love with his children. Edward's got to be so proud right now."

And so America is so very proud of Sergeant Smith. Army Pvt. Devon D. Jones: Army Pvt. Devon Jones left for

boot camp just a few weeks after graduating from Lincoln High School, in San Diego, last June. He was just 19 years old.

It was only 3 years earlier that, after moving from one San Diego group home to another, the artillery specialist found a foster mother who he called mom.

"I'm honored to talk about him," his foster mother Evelyn Houston said. "He was a strong spirit. He was cool, but compassionate, and always concerned about everyone's well-being."

He joined the military in order to pay for his education—his goal was to be a writer and a teacher.

In a letter he sent to his family last month, Private Jones described his life in the desert. "Sometimes I just look into the sky at the stars and wonder what you all are doing, and smile."

"Hold on, be patient," he concluded, "and know there is a reason for everything."

GySgt. Jeffrey Bohr: 39-year-old Marine GySgt. Jeffrey Bohr, who was killed in downtown Baghdad during a 7-hour shootout outside a mosque, had been in the military his entire adult life. He joined the Army fresh of high school in Iowa, where he rode horses and played football, but switched to the Marine Corps 5 years later.

A large, broad-shouldered man known for his boundless energy—he could run all day with the younger Marines he commanded—Sergeant Bohr was also quiet and down-to-earth.

He lived with his wife Lori in San Clemente, CA, and loved reading history and John Grisham novels and taking his two boxers, Tank and Sea Czar, on 10-mile runs. He was also a diehard Oakland Raiders fan.

The last time Sergeant Bohr called Lori was a little over a month ago—he spoke of sandstorms and his belief that they would make good parents.

Lori's brother, Craig Clover, called Sergeant Bohr "a stand-up guy—do it by the rules. For a friend or family, he'd do anything . . . and he loved the military."

Marine LCpl Donald Cline Jr.: The same was true with 21 year-old LCpl Donald Cline, Jr., who was listed as missing in action just over 1 month ago, yet the Department of Defense confirmed last week that he had died in combat outside the city of Nasiriyah, in southern Iraq.

Born in Sierra Madre, CA, Corporal Cline moved to the town of La Crescenta, where he attended the public schools there until moving to Sparks, NV. It was there that he met his future wife Tina. They had two children together Dakota, 2, and Dylan, who is only 7 months old.

Sgt Troy Jenkins: On April 19, in an extraordinary act of heroic selflessness and sacrifice, 25-year-old Sgt Troy Jenkins threw himself on a cluster bomb just before it detonated. As a result, he saved the lives not only of several soldiers in his regiment—the 187th Infantry—but of a 7-year-old Iraqi girl.